



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the National Ataxia Foundation strives to meet the goals of:

Location of patients and persons at risk. NAF encourages a complete neurological examination to make early and correct diagnoses.

-Increased awareness about these hereditary disorders. NAF assures that accurate information about ataxia will be available through a variety of educational programs for physicians, allied health professionals, and the public.

-Prevention of the spread of these disorders. NAF encourages genetic counseling to help affected individuals and families make informed decisions about family planning.

-Research. In addition to its own research efforts, the NAF supports those research projects that are designed to better understand the pathology and the cause of ataxia, or to institute new treatments based upon scientific data. The NAF helps to coordinate research efforts into the causes and early detection of ataxia through existing centers throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 150,000 individuals are affected by hereditary ataxia in the United States; and

WHEREAS, ataxia is an often fatal degenerative neurological disorder that affects balance, coordination, and speech; and

WHEREAS, ataxia can strike anyone at any time, without regards to age, gender, race, or creed; and

WHEREAS, there is no known cure; the only defense is research and prevention through education.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2005, as

ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

in the state of Louisiana, and urge all citizens to honor and support those individuals with ataxia and their care givers, in the hope that a cure will soon be found.



*Attest By
The Governor*

[Signature of Joseph R. Keith]
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 4th day of April
A.D., 2005.*

[Signature of Kathleen Babineaux Blanco]
Governor of Louisiana